

R E M A R K S

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner has found allowable subject matter in Claims 2-3 and would allow these claims if rewritten in independent form.

Herein, Claims 2-3 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the base Claim 1.

Claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Niehaus.

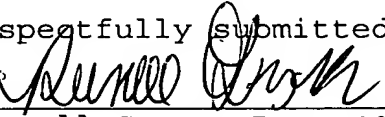
In response, it is respectfully submitted that the claims recite features not anticipated by Niehaus. In order to clarify these distinctions, Claims 1 and 4-5 have been amended to recite "distinguishing between valid input samples and non-valid input samples".

In column 8, lines 42-45, Niehaus discloses that output samples are to determined to be valid or invalid. Based on this, it is evident that Niehaus does not disclose "distinguishing between valid input samples and non-valid input samples", as required by the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not anticipated by Niehaus.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Russell Gross, Reg. 40,007
Attorney
(914) 333-9631

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On 02/10/2003

By G. Jansprocht